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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE 0447
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5326
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 0287
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE 0252
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0203

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 001561

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KINSHASA PASS TO BRAZZAVILLE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/2017
TAGS: [UNSC](#) [LE](#) [SY](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [BE](#)
SUBJECT: BELGIAN SUPPORT FOR UNSC ACTION ON SPECIAL
TRIBUNAL FOR LEBANON

REF: A. USUN 347

- [1](#)B. EMAIL SONTY/ALLEGRONE/YOUNG 05/03/07
- [1](#)C. STATE 58765
- [1](#)D. STATE 63229

Classified By: Political Counselor Theodore H. Andrews, for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) The head of Belgium's UNSC cell Rudi Brieven assured us on May 9 that Belgium (GOB) is "fully supportive" of a UNSC resolution to establish a Special Tribunal for Lebanon and will vote in favor in any event. The principles behind Belgium's position are: (1) that the authority of UNSC "demands" action, and (2) the credibility of the Braamertz investigation. (Comment: That Braamertz is a Belgian jurist had earlier constrained the GOB from comments/demarches related to the Hariri investigation. End comment.)

[1](#)2. (C) Nonetheless, Brieven raised several issues that the GOB believes must be addressed in order for a resolution to succeed, which he termed "an uphill battle." Nine votes will be hard to get. First, there are the negative postures of China and Russia. Then, the fact that UNSCR 1559 passed with only nine votes last summer made what Brieven termed a weakened resolution. He noted that Belgium does not "over-estimate" its influence in convincing other Council members to support the proposal.

[1](#)3. (C) Brieven seemed relieved to learn that the U.S. was working with France, in particular, as well as the U.K. to craft language of a resolution. He suggested strongly that the tenor of the text not come across as "politically-motivated," that is, anti-Syrian.

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